

AI wherein the layer control devices supporting the respective part of the protocol layer functions perform respectively assigned processing tasks in sequence.

Please **ADD** new claim 8 as follows:

8. (NEW) A method of controlling communications using a plurality of layer control devices and a transmission line, the method comprising:  
dividing a communication protocol into protocol layers;  
dynamically assigning the protocol layers to the respective layer control devices;  
interconnecting the layer control devices using the transmission line, the layer control devices communicating with one another over the transmission line; and  
performing operations of the assigned protocol layer, by the layer control devices, in sequence.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application and have been rejected. Amendments to claim 1 are presented herein. Claim 8 is newly added in this response. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In items 1-5 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Burns et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,222). Also, in items 6-9 on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons presented below.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites, as amended, a communication control device "wherein the communication control device dynamically assigns the part of the protocol layer functions to each of the layer control devices, and wherein the layer control devices supporting the respective part of the protocol layer functions perform respectively assigned processing tasks in sequence."